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Federal Communications Commission Washington, D.C. 20554

December 13, 1994

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A Comment

The Honorable Don Nickles U.S. Senate 133 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510 Attention: Drew Bond

Dear Senator Nickles:

Thank you for contacting us on behalf of Mr. Rick Hudley, Superintendent, State of Oklahoma, Oklahoma Departement of Corrections, Tulsa Community Corrections Center, regarding the Commission's Billed Party Preference (BPP) proceeding. On May 19, 1994, the Commission adopted a <u>Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking</u> in this proceeding. I have enclosed a copy of the <u>Further Notice</u> and press release accompanying it for your information.

The <u>Further Notice</u> sets forth a detailed cost/benefit analysis of BPP. This analysis indicates, based on the available data, that the benefits of BPP to consumers would exceed its costs. The <u>Further Notice</u> sought comment on this analysis and asked interested parties to supplement the record concerning the costs and benefits of BPP. The <u>Further Notice</u> also invited parties to recommend alternatives to BPP that could produce many of the same benefits at a lower cost.

The <u>Further Notice</u> also explicitly sought comment on whether correctional facility telephones should be exempt if BPP is adopted. Specifically, the <u>Further Notice</u> sought additional information on the effectiveness and costs of controlling fraud originating on inmate lines with or without BPP. The <u>Further Notice</u> also sought comment on a proposal to exempt prison telephones from BPP if the operator service provider adheres to rate ceilings for inmate calling services.

BPP would not preclude prison officials from blocking or limiting inmate calls to specific telephone numbers in order to prevent threatening and harassing calls. Moreover, BPP would not affect the ability of prison officials to limit inmates to collect calling or to program telephone equipment at the prison site to block certain numbers.

The Honorable Don Nickles Page 2

Reply comments were due September 14, 1994. Presently, the Commission is evaluating the comments submitted and considering the implentation of BPP along with other options. I can assure you that the Commission will carefully examine all of the comments submitted in response to the <u>Further Notice</u>, including additional empirical data regarding the costs and benefits of implementing BPP and the impact of BPP on telephone service from correctional facilities.

Thank you for forwarding Mr. Hudley's correspondence to us and for your interest in this proceeding.

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Sincerely yours,

John E. Logan Deputy Director

Office of Legislative and Inter-governmental Affairs

Enclosures

DON NICKLES OKLAHOMA

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3602

COMMITTEES: **APPROPRIATIONS** BUDGET ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

October 25, 1994

Respectfully referred to

Federal Communications Commission

for such consideration as the communication herewith submitted may warrent, and for a report thereon, in duplicate to accompany return of enclosure.

By direction of

DON NICKLES U.S. Senator

Please reply to Drew Bond of my staff.



STATE OF OELAHOMA OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS TULSA COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS CENTER

July 19, 1994

The Honorable Don Nickles United State Senate 1333 Hart Office Building Washington, D. C. 20510-3602

SUBJ: FCC CONTROL ON OUT-GOING COLLECT PHONE CALLS

Dear Senator Nickles:

This is to respond to a report that I received that the FCC is considering changing the rules as they pertain to out-going collect calls from prisoners. That the person receiving the incoming collect call would be able to designate a particular long distance carrier. Such a change would have the potential for the prison phone system company to lose money.

Strict control of out-going calls helps us to cut back fraudulent phone calls and therefore save the taxpayers money.

Please contact the FCC and help us protect the public by leaving prison phones exempt from these proposed changes.

Sincerely,

Rick Hudley, Superintendent

RH:jk

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